

Sunday, September 27, 2020
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost



INTRODUCTION FOR THE DAY

Jesus' parable about two sons provides a surprising picture of the nature of faith. Paul quotes an ancient hymn to Christ to provide a surprising picture of Christ, whose self-emptying reveals the heart of God. Our faith, too, rests in God's surprising presence in Word and in the waters of baptism.

Today we rejoice in the Baptism of Andrew James Morrison.

Due to Covid-19 precautions, please keep your masks on at all times. We also request that you do not join in the singing of hymns. Thank you.

Grace Lutheran Church
65 E Main Street
Mendham, NJ 07945
973-543-7595
www.gracemendham.org
Timothy J. Wengert—Vice Pastor

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who creates, redeems, and makes us holy.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Faithful God,
have mercy on us. We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We turn from your loving embrace and go our own ways. We pass judgment on one another before examining ourselves. We place our own needs before those of our neighbors. We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves. Humble us, forgive our transgressions, and turn us again to life in you through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

God hears the cries of all who call out in need, and through his death and resurrection, Christ forgives us all our sin. Therefore, as a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ and by his authority, I announce to you the entire forgiveness of all your sin, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG

**All Are Welcome
Verses 1, 3, 5****ELW 641**

- 1 Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

Refrain

All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.

3 Let us build a house where love is found
in water, wine and wheat:
a banquet hall on holy ground
where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus,
is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us: *Refrain*

5 Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed
as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace,
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: *Refrain*

OPENING INVOCATION

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also, with you.**

KYRIE

In peace, let us pray to the Lord
Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

READING: PHILIPPIANS 2:1-13

In this part of his letter to the Philippians, Paul uses a very early Christian hymn that extols the self-emptying of Christ in his obedient death on the cross. Christ's selfless act changes us, too, into people eager to use our Christian freedom to serve others.

¹If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,

⁷but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,
⁸he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

¹²Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

ANTHEM

CHILDREN OF THE HEAVENLY FATHER LONI BACH - CELLO

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 21:23-32

After driving the moneychangers out of the temple (21:12), Jesus begins teaching there. His authority is questioned by the religious leaders, who are supposed to be in charge of the temple.

²³When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” ²⁴Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ ²⁶But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for

all regard John as a prophet.”²⁷ So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’²⁹ He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went.³⁰ The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go.³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you.³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.”

SERMON Pastor Tim Wengert

HYMN OF THE DAY

DEAREST JESUS, AT YOUR WORD

ELW 520

- 1 Dearest Jesus, at your word
we have come again to hear you;
let our thoughts and hearts be stirred
and in glowing faith be near you
as the promises here given
draw us wholly up to heaven.
- 2 All our knowledge, sense, and sight
lie in deepest darkness shrouded
till your Spirit breaks the night,
filling us with light unclouded.
All good thoughts and all good living
come but by your gracious giving.
- 3 Radiance of God's glory bright,
Light of light from God proceeding,
Jesus, send your blessed light;
help our hearing, speaking, heeding,
that our prayers and songs may please you,
as with grateful hearts we praise you.

4 Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
praise to you and adoration!
Grant us what we need the most:
all your gospel's consolation
while we here on earth await you,
till in heav'n with praise we greet you.

THE BAPTISM OF ANDREW JAMES MORRISON

PRESENTATION

*Candidates for baptism, sponsors, and parents gather with the ministers at the font.
The assembly is seated.*

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

Sponsors for each candidate, in turn, present the candidates

We present Andrew James for baptism.

The presiding minister addresses sponsors and parents of those who are unable to answer for themselves:

As you bring Andrew to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities: to live with him among God's faithful people, bring him to the word of God and the holy supper, teach him the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in his hands the holy scriptures, and nurture him in faith and prayer, so that he may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace. Do you promise to help Andrew grow in the Christian faith and life? **We do.**

The presiding minister addresses sponsors:

Sponsors, do you promise to nurture Andrew in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help him live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church? **We do.**

The presiding minister addresses the assembly:

People of God, do you promise to support Andrew and pray for him in his new life in Christ?

We do.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

The presiding minister addresses candidates for baptism as well as the parents and sponsors of young children. The assembly may join in the responses.

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God, the powers of this world that rebel against God, and the ways of sin that draw you from God?

I renounce them.

The presiding minister addresses the candidates and the assembly.

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

Water is poured into the font. The presiding minister begins the thanksgiving:

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

BAPTISM

The presiding minister baptizes each candidate. Water is poured on the candidate's head, as the presiding minister says:

Andrew James, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

Laying both hands on the head of each of the newly baptized, the minister prays for each:

Sustain Andrew James with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. **Amen.**

The presiding minister marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of each of the baptized.

Andrew James, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. **Amen.**

The presiding minister says these words while a baptismal garment is placed upon the newly baptized.

Andrew, child of God, you are clothed in Christ's righteousness forever.

A lighted candle is given to each of the newly baptized

Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. Let us welcome the newly baptized.

We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

PRAYERS

Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

In all the world, give your church unity. Inspire all the baptized, and especially Andrew, with the mind of Christ. Where the church is powerful and where it struggles, shape us with humility and obedience so that your love may be at work in us. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Turn the nations toward life. Where our ways are unfair, give us new hearts and new spirits. Where sin permeates our cultures and institutions, change our minds and teach us to trust your authority. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Our lives are yours, O God. Relieve the suffering of those who are ill in body, mind, or spirit. Defend the lives and welfare of children and keep them from abuse and neglect, hunger or exploitation. We pray also for all who are sick and suffering, especially those we name before you silently or aloud.... Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We thank you for those who have gone before us into your heavenly realm, especially Andrew's grandfather and namesake. By their witness, teach us to trust Jesus Christ as Lord in life and in death. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

Closing.... through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace. **Amen.**

CLOSING SONG

THINE THE AMEN VERSES 1, 3, 4, 5

ELW 826

- 1 Thine the amen thine the praise alleluias angels raise
thine the everlasting head thine the breaking of the bread
thine the glory thine the story thine the harvest then the cup
thine the vineyard then the cup is lifted up lifted up.

- 3 Thine the truly thine the yes thine the table we the guest
thine the mercy all from thee thine the glory yet to be
then the ringing and the singing then the end of all the war
thine the living thine the loving evermore evermore.

- 4 Thine the kingdom thine the prize thine the wonder full surprise
thine the banquet then the praise then the justice of thy ways
thine the glory thine the story then the welcome to the least
then the wonder all increasing at thy feast at thy feast.

- 5 Thine the glory in the night no more dying only light
thine the river thine the tree then the Lamb eternally
then the holy holy holy celebration jubilee
thine the splendor thine the brightness only thee only thee.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Toccata from Suite Gothique Leon Boellmann